Raising the Level of the Main Central Road in certain places between Kottayam and Ettumanur.

74. **MR. T. J. MATTHEW** (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether portions of the Main Central Road will not be submerged at times of flood at Nagampadam and Neelimangalam;

(*b*) the length of the road that will be ordinarily submerged at the above places;

(*c*) whether traffic will not have to be stopped temporarily when those portions of the road are under water;

(*d*) whether the flood-water flowing over the road at the two places mentioned above causes breaches in the road;

(*e*) whether they do not spend money every year to repair these breaches; and

(*f*) whether the stoppage of traffic and wastage of money cannot be prevented by raising the level of the road at the two places and providing culverts for the passage of water?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes, during high floods.

(*b*) About 200 to 250 feet.

(*c*) Not until breaches occur.

(*d*) Breaches occur only occasionally.

(*e*) Not every year.

(*f*) The question of raising the low embankments subject to submergence and overflow during heavy floods is receiving attention.

Nedumkunnam-Attakkulam Road.

75. **MR. T. J. MATTHEW** (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any amount is being spent for the maintenance of the road from Nedumkunnam to Attakulam;

(*b*) how long is it since the above road was repaired;

(*c*) whether any sum was utilised for the maintenance of this road in 1100 or 1101; and

(*d*) whether they will take up the construction of the necessary bridges and culverts on this road at an early date?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes; the road has a maintenance grant of Rs. 50 per mile.

(*b*) and (*c*) The road was repaired in 1100 at a cost of Rs. 215.

(*d*) An estimate for the construction of the necessary bridges and culverts on this road has been called for by the Chief Engineer.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): With reference to parts (*b*) and (*c*), may I know why no amount was spent in the year 1101.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The road was repaired in 1100 at a cost of Rs. 215. That fact is mentioned there.

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MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Is not repair done every year?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*). This is a special repair for 1100.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Are not repairs made every year? The answer is that Rs. 215 was spent for repairs in 1100.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is not out of the maintenance grant. The amount allotted for maintenance is utilised for doing patchwork.

Kanjirapalli-Tambalakkad Road.

76. MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the road from Kanjirapalli to Tambalakkad is being maintained by the Public Works Department;

(*b*) whether they have called for an estimate for improving the above road into a cart road; and

(*c*) what is the length of the road and what will be the cost of making it fit for cart traffic?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The road is seven miles long. Of this, nearly three miles from the K. K. road end are reported to be fit for cart traffic; the remaining portion is being made fit, bit by bit, every year from the maintenance grant.

Exemption from Departmental Examinations.

77. MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Will the Government be pleased to direct that no public servant who is above 45 years of age should be called upon to pass departmental examinations?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The matter will be considered.

Fixing of Rates at Toll Gates for Motor Vehicles.

78. MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Will the Government be pleased to state the principle adopted in fixing the rate of toll payable by each kind of motor vehicle at the several P. W. D. toll-gates and municipal toll-gates, respectively?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): As far as the levy of P. W. D. tolls is concerned, the principle is that the user of the roads should contribute towards their upkeep in proportion to the use he makes of the roads and the wear and tear caused thereby to the roads. Motor vehicles use the roads more frequently and cause greater damage to the roads than other kinds of vehicles and the rates of toll levied from the former are necessarily higher. Municipalities establish toll-gates for the purpose of raising revenue for municipal purposes.

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